

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 21 are presently pending in this patent application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter that remains after the prosecution of the present application in a future continuing patent application, for example, a division.

Discussion of the Restriction Requirement and Provisional Election

The Action requires applicants to select one of the following four groups of allegedly patentably distinct inventions for examination.

- I. Claims 1 to 16, drawn to pharmaceutical compositions;
- II. Claim 17, drawn to methods for minimizing chemical degradation of a salt;
- III. Claims 18 and 19, drawn to methods for increasing local tolerance while administering a salt composition; and
- IV. Claims 20 and 21, drawn to methods of treating a COX-2 disorder.

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I. The Action includes also a request that applicants elect a species of cosolvent, surfactant, antioxidant (where present), and buffer (where present). In this regard, applicants elect polyethylene Glycol 400 as the cosolvent and a polysorbate as the surfactant; an antioxidant and a buffer are not elected as present.

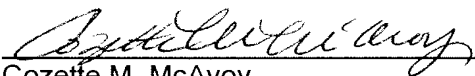
Claims 1 to 5, 10 to 12, 15 and 16 are generic to at least one of the elected species. Applicants acknowledge that upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependant form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Action of record. If there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required to Deposit Account No. **19-0134** in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,


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